

VZCZCXRO4019
OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHML #0102 0100915
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 100915Z JAN 07
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4602
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 9498
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 3011
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHHMUNS/COMSOCOPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 000102

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR EAP, PM, S/CT, AND EAP/MTS
USPACOM ALSO FOR FPA HUSO AND J5
SECDEF/OSD/ISA/AP (TOOLAN/BAILEY)
JOINT STAFF/J5 (WILKES/ROBINSON)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/10/2017

TAGS: PTER MARR MASS MOPS MCAP PREL RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE MILITARY KILLS ASG URBAN TERRORIST GROUP LEADER

REF: A. MANILA 0068
1B. MANILA 0072

Classified By: (U) Acting DCM Scott Bellard for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

11. (C/REL AUS) In follow up to the successful January 6 operation that led to the deaths of five Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists and one suspected Jemaah Islamiyah operative near the southern island of Tawi-Tawi (ref a), elements of Military Intelligence Group-9, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Scout Rangers killed Binang Sali AKA Abu Freedom in a January 9 raid on Sali's safe house near the town of Patikul on the island of Jolo. Sali was a leader of the ASG's Urban Terrorist Group and the subject of a reward (amount to be determined) under the U.S. Department of Defense's Rewards program. He was responsible for numerous assassinations and kidnappings.

12. (U) Including Sali, the Armed Forces of the Philippines have to date killed 38 terrorists and captured 15 others since the August 1, 2006 onset of "Operation Ultimatum" on Jolo.

13. (C/REL AUS) Comment: the January 6 and January 9 actions reflect the Philippine military's increasing ability -- with U.S. help -- to link intelligence to operations. Both operations also demonstrated improved operations security and compartmentalization, as well as the determination of the Philippine government -- with President Arroyo's full and highly visible support (ref b) -- to go after all terrorists in the Philippines, including the high-value targets still believed to be in hiding in northeast Jolo.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eap/manila/index.cfm>
Jones